

their lives to save a young boy who was trapped in his bedroom as flames engulfed his family's apartment. Thanks to their bravery, 2-year-old Justin Aruomah is in stable condition and continues to improve daily.

We must never take for granted the men and women of the local fire departments across the country who courageously respond to emergencies on a daily basis, risking their lives to save those of others. Their willingness to face danger in order to serve and protect their communities affords us a peace of mind that too often goes underappreciated.

Madam Speaker, I am humbled by the firefighters of the Long Beach Fire Department, whose bravery and devotion to their community is nothing short of heroic. The events of last Monday, December 6, 2010 is only one of many moving examples of this heroism.

Just after midnight, firefighter Chuck Hakopian and Carston Sorenson rushed into a burning apartment. They ran up the apartment's stairs through billowing clouds of smoke and into a bedroom that was engulfed in flames. The floor in the room was so weakened by the fire that Mr. Hakopian fell through the floor to his elbows. After pulling himself up and out of the collapsed floor, he rushed into a second bedroom, where he found 2-year-old Justin Aruomah lying face down on the floor. As Mr. Sorenson battled the flames with a fire hose, Mr. Hakopian covered the boy's head and body and rushed him out of the burning house to awaiting paramedics Mark Miller and Joyce Vanderweide. Justin was unconscious, but alive. As he was rushed to the hospital, Ms. Vanderweide and Mr. Miller were able to revive his breathing. Justin was soon placed in critical condition. Thanks to these brave men and women he is alive and recuperating.

I do not share this story of bravery and sacrifice because it is any way uncommon. The firefighters of the Long Beach Fire Department, along with departments across the country, risk their lives every day to protect people who they have never met. These acts of selflessness are typically accompanied by little fanfare. These brave men and women simply return to work the next day to await the call of duty.

I share this story because it is a powerful reminder of the need to support the men and women who stand ready to serve our communities, day and night. We have an obligation to provide our firefighters—along with our police officers, paramedics, and all other emergency responders—with the resources that they need to do their job successfully and as safely as possible. This means providing enough funding for them to afford all the necessary training and cutting-edge equipment. This is the right thing to do for the men and women who dedicate their lives to serving our communities.

As the Chair of the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Emergency Communication, Preparedness, and Response, supporting our emergency responders is one of my top priorities in Congress. Emergency situations cannot always be prevented, but their effects can be mitigated by ensuring that emergency responders have all the resources that they need to protect us.

Again, I thank Chuck Hakopian, Mark Miller, Joyce Vanderweide, and Carston Sorensen of the Long Beach Fire Department and the emergency responders all across the country who risk their lives on behalf of their communities. Your courage and selflessness do not go unnoticed.

IN HONOR OF ALEX MACHASKEE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alex Machaskee of Warren, Ohio on the occasion of his being honored by the American Nationalities Movement, and for his lifetime of service, commitment, and dedication to the greater Cleveland community.

Mr. Machaskee graduated from Cleveland State University with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He worked at the Warren Tribune before joining the Plain Dealer in 1960. He moved up the ranks, becoming Publisher and President in 1990. In this position he initiated a large expansion program, in which the Plain Dealer improved the quality of its service by investing in a new facility, a redesigned distribution system, and expanded coverage of local news. He retired in 2006, capping a 46-year career at the Plain Dealer.

As a result of his prolific career in journalism, Mr. Machaskee has been recognized by many local organizations and institutions. He has received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Cleveland State University, the University of Akron, and Heidelberg College. Some of his honors and awards include the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition Organization, the Whitney M. Young Humanitarian Award from the Urban League of Cleveland, and the Nonprofit Board Executive of the Year Award from the World Trade Center Cleveland. He has also been inducted into the Northeast Ohio Business and Cleveland Journalism Halls of Fame.

In a further demonstration of his dedication and commitment to the Cleveland community, Mr. Machaskee has been welcomed into the boards of many local nonprofit organizations. Some of the cultural institutions whose boards he joined include the Musical Arts Association of the Cleveland Orchestra, the International Orthodox Christian Charities, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, the Cleveland Opera, and United Way Services.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Alex Machaskee for his decades of commitment and service to the greater Cleveland area. His leadership of the Plain Dealer and his efforts in greater Cleveland area nonprofit organizations demonstrate the strength of his character and the dedication he feels to his community. I commend Mr. Machaskee and wish him success in his future efforts.

RETIRE MAJOR GENERAL FRED-  
ERICK HARWOOD "FRED"  
FORSTER

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Retired Major General Frederick Harwood "Fred" Forster passed away on November 18, 2010, after a long and very brave battle with cancer. I do not know another person who has met

such a challenge with more strength, faith, and grace.

Fred was a very patriotic American and one of the finest men I have ever known. He had an immeasurable impact on Blount County, Tennessee, and the United States in many positive ways.

Upon reporting the news of his death, The Daily Times newspaper in Maryville, Tennessee, referred to Fred as "a community treasure."

Fred's pastor at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church said Blount County has lost a "great man and friend to this community," and he continued on to say that, "(Fred) believed in prayer and accepted the will of God without complaint. Dignity, respect, honor, faith, love, commitment; these are the words that describe Fred."

Sharon Hannum, Chair of the Blount County Chamber Foundation, said, "I have met no stronger, dedicated and compassionate leader than in the person of Fred Forster."

Former Maryville Mayor Joe Swann said, "His steadfastness in the face of such adversity makes him the soldier we point to and say, 'I had the great privilege of knowing that remarkable man.'"

Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, a native of Maryville himself, called Fred a friend and said, "Blount County and I will miss him greatly."

Fred is perhaps best known for his success in the military. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1968, his accomplishments as a pilot and natural leadership abilities propelled Fred to the rank of assistant adjutant general of the Tennessee Air National Guard at the time of his retirement in 2003.

During his 35-year service, he served as commander of the 134th Air Refueling Wing, Tennessee Air National Guard, and chief of staff of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Fred's time in the military took him through the Air Command and Staff College, Army Command and General Staff College, and Air War College. He received countless decorations, including a Bronze Star, and served in Thailand and the United Arab Emirates, playing an important role in the liberation of Kuwait during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Fred also found much success in community development. He served as chief executive officer of the Blount Partnership, a venture made up by the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Board, Smoky Mountain Convention and Visitors Bureau and Blount Chamber Foundation.

His time at the Chamber is admired by all who were lucky enough to work with him until his retirement earlier this year.

As you would imagine, Fred's work did not stop with the military or his time at the Chamber. He devoted much time to other civic and private organizations too numerous to name in this space.

Fred was buried with full military honors at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, and I attended his graveside service along with many hundreds of other people. It was very obvious to everyone who was there how loved and respected he was in the community.

Recently, Fred's father-in-law, Garland DeLozier, also passed away. Garland was a community leader in his own right, and I offer my condolences to Fred's wife, Carolyn, who has lost her husband and father in such a short span of time.